

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for preventing spray from emerging from a wheel of a vehicle, the device comprising a generally planar linearly and vertically extending panel ~~that is adapted to be~~ mounted substantially vertically behind a vehicle wheel and spaced therefrom~~-a vehicle wheel~~ for receiving on a first side water released by the wheel as it rotates, the panel including at least one passage which leads from the first side to a rear second side of the panel, the at least one passage being other than normal to the plane of the panel, and at least one vertically extending water-collecting pocket along a side of the at least one passage, wherein, in use, air and water entering the at least one passage are separated so that air passes through the at least one passage and mixes with ambient air on a second side of the panel, and water collects in the at least one water-collecting pocket.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the panel is formed from a plurality of ~~vertical~~vertically extending baffles positioned in a side by side relationship with passages therebetween.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the plurality of vertically extending ~~vertical~~ baffles are substantially identical in shape.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the plurality of vertically extending ~~vertical~~ baffles overlap one another.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one passage is non-linear.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water-collecting pockets are arranged so as to collect water following a change of direction in the at least one passage.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the at least one or each passage has two changes of direction.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one pocket is a channel running substantially vertically along a respective baffle, so that, in use, water drains from the baffles onto a surface on which the wheel is travelling.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the channel is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 11 (cancel)

Claim 12 (previously presented): The device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the baffles overlap one another.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~A The device as claimed in Claim 1 for preventing spray from emerging from a wheel of a vehicle, the device comprising a generally planar panel that is adapted to be mounted substantially vertically behind a vehicle wheel for receiving on a first side water released by the wheel as it rotates, wherein the panel being is formed from a plurality of vertical vertically extending baffles, the plurality of vertical baffles being extruded joined together in a side by side relationship by horizontally extending shafts supporting spacers between the baffles and having a plurality of spacers provided between the baffles, the spacers being supported by elongate horizontal shafts, the plurality of vertical baffles being positioned in a side by side relationship to define at least one passage therebetween, the at least one passage leading from the first side to a rear second side of the panel, the at least one passage being other than normal to the plane of the panel, and at least one water collecting pocket along a side of the at least one passage, wherein, in use, air and water entering the at least one passage are separated so that air passes through the at least one passage and mixes with ambient air on a second side of the panel, and water collects in the at least one water collecting pocket.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for preventing spray from emerging from a wheel of a vehicle, the method comprising:

providing a generally linear and vertically extending planar panel for receiving on a first side water released by the wheel as it rotates, the panel including at least one vertically extending

passage which leads from the first side to a rear second side of the panel, the at least one passage being other than normal to the plane of the panel, and at least one water-collecting pocket along a side of the at least one passage, wherein, in use, air and water entering the at least one passage are separated so that air passes through the at least one passage and mixes with ambient air on a second side of the panel, and water collects in the at least one water-collecting pocket; and

mounting the planar panel substantially vertically behind a vehicle wheel and spaced therefrom.